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USSR PLANES, PERSONNEL STRENGTHEN CCF;
SOUTH CHINA AIRFIELDS BEING REPAIRED

SAYS PRESENT AIR FORCE FOR DEFENSE -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 1 May 50

Tokyo, 30 April (Chung-yang) -- A report on the present strength of the Chinese Communist Air Force, Soviet air personnel in Shanghai and the reaction of the Shanghai inhabitants toward them was given by a recent arrival from the China mainland as follows:

Through aid from the USSR, the Chinese Communist Air force now has about 400 aircraft, of which half are of Soviet make. They are single-engine fighter planes, but because of their high speed and the noise they make during flight, many people mistake them for jet-propelled planes. To date, the USSR has not supplied the Chinese with any bombers.

It is unlikely that the Communists will utilize these fighter planes to launch an attack on Taiwan. Their plan calls for the employment of these planes in the defense of major cities along the East China coast against KMT air raids to prevent further damage to factories.

The main strength of the air force in the East China area is now concentrated at either Nanking or Hangchow airfields. Although repair work on the Lung-hua and Chiang-wan airfields at Shanghai has been started, there are very few planes stationed at these airfields.

The pilots and technicians of the Chinese Communist Air Force are made up, for the most part, of Russians who were transferred from Siberia. In Shanghai alone, there are more than 4,000 Soviet personnel who were sent from Siberia in two groups. The first group was composed mainly of antiaircraft personnel and technicians, while the second group was mainly pilots. The monthly pay of a Soviet pilot or highly skilled technician, paid by the CCF, averages about 2,000 Hong Kong dollars, while the pay of the unskilled groups is about 1,000 Hong Kong dollars. This wage scale is causing great anxiety among the Shanghai inhabitants since there is no one among them whose monthly income exceeds more than 500 Hong Kong dollars.

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The Soviet troops are finding difficulty in obtaining Chinese interpreters and cooks in Shanghai, even though they are offering exceptionally high salaries for them. This is because Shanghai inhabitants still hate the Russians. The discipline of the first group of Russians who reached Shanghai several months ago was exemplary, but since the arrival of the second group, Soviet behavior is becoming worse. There have been frequent clashes with the CCF.

COMMUNISTS BUILDING AIRFIELDS -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 8 May 50

According to a report from Amoy, the Fukien Communist authorities recently recruited thousands of workers from Amoy, Chang-chou, Ch'ang-t'ing, and Foochow for the purpose of reconstructing the former KMT airfields at Amoy, Foochow, and Ch'ang-t'ing, and of building a new airfield at Chang-chou. The reconstruction work on these airfields is under the direction and planning of the Soviet advisors.

The same report also disclosed that the Chinese Communist Air Force, which has been training at Chia-mu-ssu for the past 3 years, is now ready for combat and that the Communists now have about 150 aircraft ready for combat. About 60 to 70 percent of these aircraft are fighter planes, while light and heavy bombers only total about 20 and 10 percent, respectively.

KWANGTUNG ORDERS PEOPLE'S MILITIA -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 9 Apr 50

Canton, 8 April -- An order was issued today by Governor Yeh Chien-ying of the Kwangtung Provincial People's government to the hsien governments to expedite the formation of people's militia in their areas so that they may assist the People's Liberation Army in suppressing the activities of the KMT special agents and in restoring peace and order in Kwangtung.

Ch'u-chiang and Ju-yuan hsiens have already organized their militia. Wen Ta-ch'eng (Ueda: 4321, 1946, 3610) and K'ung Ching-t'ai (2264, 4558, 6098), chairman and deputy chairman of the Ju-yuan Agricultural Association, were designated commander and deputy commander of the Ju-yuan People's Militia, respectively.

CANTON ARSENAL BEATS QUOTA -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 30 Apr 50

The Canton Arsenal workers have been establishing glorious records of speeding production to make a good showing before the 1 May labor-day celebration.

They have been very busy with urgent repairs on antiaircraft weapons, machinery, and infantry rifles to supply the front. However, at the same time, they have worked ahead of schedule on the regular production tasks of the shop. The first quarter's quota, which the production planners hoped might be finished 15 days early, was actually completed 19 days early. Individual lathers and spline groovers, working on boat propeller shafts, stepped up production about 50 percent.

The workmen have taken a lively interest in the program of inventorying the items in the shops. Among the discarded materials they found 1,400 usable rifles, more than 120 light and heavy machine guns, and over 2 million rounds of ammunition. They also discovered over 40,000 pieces of machine-tool materials and 200,000 pieces of rifle and artillery parts. All this is evidence of the feeling of proprietorship that has taken possession of the workers.

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